



City of Knoxville's Preliminary Guidance for Halloween 2020

Trick or Treat – Stay Six Feet

Many traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses. We recommend that neighborhoods should not do anything that will bring a crowd.

If you may have COVID-19 or you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should not participate in in-person Halloween festivities and should not give out candy to trick-or-treaters.

Things to consider for your family and children:

- The rate of infection in Knox County on Oct. 31
- The health risks of those present in your household
- The type of place you take your children; (a crowded apartment building might be higher risk)

There are several safer, alternative ways to participate in Halloween.

Lower risk activities

- Carving or decorating pumpkins with members of your household and displaying them
- Carving or decorating pumpkins outside, at a safe distance, with neighbors or friends
- Decorating your house, apartment, or living space
- Doing a Halloween scavenger hunt where children are given lists of Halloween-themed things to look for while they walk outdoors from house to house admiring Halloween decorations at a distance
- Having a virtual Halloween costume contest
- Having a Halloween movie night with people you live with
- Having a drive in movie night projected onto the side of a building
- Having a scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search with your household members in or around your home rather than going house to house
- Drive in haunted houses

Moderate risk activities

- Participating in one-way trick-or-treating where individually wrapped goodie bags are lined up for children to grab and go while continuing to social distance (such as at the end of a driveway or at the edge of a yard)

- If you are preparing goodie bags, [wash your hands](#) with soap and water for at least 20 second before and after preparing the bags, wear gloves, and a mask.
- Recommend that adults supervise older children as well as younger children to ensure that family preferences are followed
- Use hand sanitizer after receiving candy from each house
- Do not eat candy while trick-or-treating
- Make certain kids wash their hands as soon as they get home.
- Let candy sit for 3-4 days or whip it down.
- Using a six-foot-long PVC pipe to make a candy chute.
- Having a small group, outdoor, open-air costume parade where people are distanced more than 6 feet apart
- Attending a costume party held outdoors where protective masks are used and people can remain more than 6 feet apart
 - A costume mask (such as for Halloween) is not a substitute for a cloth mask.
 - If the costume mask over the cloth mask makes it hard to breathe, do not wear a costume mask. Instead, consider using a Halloween-themed cloth mask by itself.
 - Be creative with your cloth mask to make it fun!
- Going to an open-air, one-way, walk-through haunted forest where appropriate mask use is enforced, and people can remain more than 6 feet apart
 - If screaming will likely occur, greater distancing is advised. The greater the distance, the lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus.
- Visiting pumpkin patches or orchards where people use hand sanitizer before touching pumpkins or picking apples, wearing masks is encouraged or enforced, and people are able to maintain social distancing
- Visiting costume themed corn mazes
- Having an outdoor Halloween movie night with local family friends with people spaced at least 6 feet apart
 - If screaming will likely occur, greater distancing is advised. The greater the distance, the lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus.
 - Lower your risk by following CDC's recommendations on [hosting gatherings or cook-outs](#).

